

# Objectives of County Park Plan Detailed

Vigo Co. Recreation

T.H. TRIB-STAR 1/14/68.

**Editor's Note:** This is the first of a series of articles on the master plan of the Vigo County Park and Recreation Department. Purpose of the stories is to acquaint TRIBUNE readers with the objectives of the county park board in its attempts to provide recreation facilities for residents of Vigo and surrounding counties.

By DICK SUTLIFF  
Tribune Staff Writer  
Time was when sitting around the neighborhood gen-

eral store on Saturday night cracking knuckles and telling off-color jokes was just about the utopia of recreation.

Not so any more.

The modern family, in today's affluent society, demands increased opportunities to vent their energies in the direction of recreation, relaxation and personal enrichment.

The word "recreation" is derived from the word "re-create," defined in the Britannica World Language Dictionary as meaning: "To impart

fresh vigor to; refresh, especially after toil, by some form of relaxation or entertainment."

And it's to satisfy this basic human need that the Vigo County Park and Recreation Department was created Dec. 13, 1965, with the appointment of a five-member county Park and Recreation Board.

Circuit Judge H. Ralph Johnston appointed the board to plan, acquire, develop, manage and maintain a system of county parks, and recreation areas to meet the needs of the

people.

The 1965 Indiana General Assembly, through its passage of the Park and Recreation Law, made it possible for counties to provide a greater opportunity for the establishment of park and recreation programs, and to consolidate services to the end that overlapping costs could be eliminated and governmental responsibility for park and recreation services could be increased.

The law provides that the department shall be composed of

a board of parks and recreation — not more than three members may be of the same political party — a superintendent and such other personnel as the board may determine.

Richard D. Norris is the superintendent of the department, and the present board members are Jack R. Wood, president; R. Fox Burns, vice president; Mrs. Maxine Winklepleck, secretary, and John E. Etling and John D. Zerr.

To gain the objective of meeting the need for county-wide

recreation facilities and to participate in desirable grant-in-aid programs, the board observed the necessity of preparing a park and recreation plan that would meet the requirements set by the various state and federal agencies concerned with such matters.

Local people were engaged for special assistance in analyzing and organizing material for the master plan. Paul N. Funkhouser, a former bank official, was retained to oversee prepa-

ration of the ambitious study. The master plan was subsequently prepared by the board, four experts in agriculture and conservation, three persons serving as resource personnel and a 42-member advisory committee. The plan was about one year in the making.

The agricultural - conservation experts were Dr. B. K. Barton, executive director of the Wabash Valley Interstate Commission; Guy T. Harris,

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# Objectives Of Park Plan For County

Continued From Page One.

county agricultural agent; Billy Beach, area agricultural extension agent from Vincennes, and James A. Peterson, a research specialist with Indiana and Purdue Universities.

Robert Eddleman, Marshall Alexander and James Fuller were the resource personnel. They are with the county Soil Conservation Service in the Federal Building.

## Advisory Committee

Members of the advisory committee, in addition to Alexander, Dr. Barton, Eddleman and Harris, were as follows:

Everett J. Acree, Kenneth R. Badertscher, Paul Carson, Virgil Cesinger, James F. Conover, Dr. D. W. Conner Sr., M. Keith Cornelison, Miss Lulu Chickaduance, Jay Dennis, Andrew Drake, Mrs. John Drake, Lawrence J. Eilers, Nelson Eddy, Paul Finkbiner, Mrs. Ruth Haas, Carl Hale, Cleo Hardesty, Joe F. Hennen and Arnold Herring.

Also, Mrs. Coen Hutchinson, C. Huston Isaacs, Joseph W. Junker, Mrs. Samuel Klaus, Lawrence Leach, Ray Lenderman, Bill Miller, Mrs. Ben Moulton, William E. Ouweleen, Mrs. James V. Payne, Wilbur Randolph, Fred Salmon, L. E. (Buck) Sawyer, Ralph Swigart, Mrs. Kay Thomson, Myrl O. Wilkinson, James R. Williams, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Herbert F. Winterhalter and Mrs. Marie Fox.

Those leading the park and recreation project here took note that people today are searching for a beautiful world, free of man's tampering and blighting influences.

A resurgence of interest is being experienced by Indiana in creating a quality environment in which people may have increased opportunities for education, recreation and relaxation.

The advance of technology and population is causing the best quality landscape resources to often disappear under new highways, industrial sites and subdivisions, with little thought given to the increased leisure time brought about by the shorter work weeks most citizens enjoy today.

## Growing Interest

Increased per capita income, mobility, life span and larger families also contribute to the growing interest in recreation. Suitable open spaces are becoming increasingly difficult to find. Considerable expansion in parklands is seen as mandatory if the needs of the public are to be met.

A county outdoor recreation plan is required if localities are to qualify for new state and federal assistance programs.

The purpose of the park and recreation master plan is to indicate to the citizens of Vigo County the type, size and number of developments needed to meet the demand of local and of the body.

out-of-county residents for outdoor parks and recreation space in an expanding urban community such as ours.

The plan will also serve as a guide to the size, quality, available recreation space and potential areas for development.

The plan is seen as constituting a general consensus of the citizens of this area.

Objectives — seven of them — as outlined in the master plan include:

(1) To provide outdoor recreation facilities to people of the surrounding area.

(2) To protect and preserve as many of the recreation resources as possible.

(3) To develop and preserve the scenic and historic assets of the county.

(4) To preserve the significant historical sites.

(5) To utilize the various public and private funds available to the best advantage of Vigo County residents.

(6) To co-operate with other federal, state, county and community groups in acquisition, development and operation of facilities.

(7) To co-operate with private individuals in acquiring and developing recreation areas.

The plan says the demand for all forms of outdoor recreation in the Hoosier State will spiral at an unprecedented rate for the next 25 years because of population growth, per capita income, increased leisure time, more inter-city travel and a tendency to spend more on outdoor recreation.

The master plan declares that "any one of these separate factors would cause substantial rise in demand; combined, their impact creates a major challenge."

**TOMORROW:** History, topography, resources, watersheds, climate, and transportation.

## CHAPLAINS MEETING SET FOR JAN. 24

The Union Hospital Chaplaincy, a division of the Vigo County Chaplains Association will conduct the bi-monthly luncheon meeting of the Chaplains Association Jan. 24 in the hospital auditorium at 11:45 a.m.

Dave Kirk will be toastmaster for the occasion and Doctor James Cristee will be guest speaker. Other items on the program will include a greeting from Joe Mackey, Union Hospital administrator. A report from and introduction of the officers of the Vigo County Chaplains Association will be given by the Rev. Gerald Stitt. The Rev. Gene Lake will give a report of the progress of the hospital chaplaincy, assisted by Brother Elias, administrative resident at the Union Hospital.

The Hospital Chaplaincy is a program which is operated by a group of ministers in the area who belong to the Chaplains Association. Any regular ordained minister in the area may participate in the program of providing a volunteer religious ministry in the hospital provided necessary training is completed.

A woman's brain is as big as a man's in proportion to the size of the body.

# New Parks Will Give Chance For Many to Enrich Lives

(Third of a Series)

By DICK SUTTAFF

Tribune Staff Writer

The purpose of a recreation program is to give people opportunities for enriching their lives through the use of personal resources and the resources of their environment.

This is one of the factors—probably the primary one— which affected the thinking of community leaders who devised the master plan of the county Park and Recreation Department.

People need places where they can just play around, augmented by guidance and assistance by leaders in obtaining the fullest personal value from play, and even the chance to enjoy a few free moments without play in a pleasant atmosphere.

In making recommendations

for a county-wide park and recreation system, an enumeration of existing parks and programs is definitely in order.

Recreation services under public auspices in Terre Haute include golfing, picnicking and fishing in some of the city's 18 parks.

## Nine Facilities

In addition, there are nine private recreational facilities in the county, six quasi-public facilities and seven voluntary agency services.

The private recreational spots include the Allendale Country Club, Marks Par 3 Golf Course, Elks Country Club, South Lake, Phoenix Country Club, Forest Park, Spring Lake, Gibson Lake and Camp Wildwood.

The quasi-public areas include the Riley Conservation Club, Lost Creek Conservation Club, Nevins Conservation Club, Isaak Walton Lake, Fresh Air Camp

and the Vigo County Conservation Club.

The YMCA, YWCA, Boys Club, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Hyte Community Center and Torner House are the voluntary service agencies.

Existing recreation spaces include the Green Valley Mine Pond State Fish Area, a 140-acre site owned by the State Department of Natural Resources northwest of West Terre Haute. Toilet and boat-launching facilities are provided there now.

The city has two large recreation parks, Deming and Rea, the latter wholly used for golfing. Also available are two parks of about 59 acres each, Memorial Stadium and Fair-

banks Park, including the Dres-  
ser Drive area. There are 10 smaller parks and two boule-  
vard park strips on Ohio St.

Major facilities vary at each

## BUSTED BUST

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — 8 Workmen strived for four hours to get an imported, nine-foot plaster likeness of Confucius into the Chinese Development Center, only to discover the statue was a bust.

The statue of the Chinese philosopher-statesman had been cast in Taiwan and was a feature of the Nationalist Chinese pavilion at Expo 67 in Montreal. But when his crate was finally opened Monday afternoon, there was nothing left of him but a pile of broken crockery.

of the city parks.

### 17,000 Play Golf

During the 1966 season, the nine-hole golf course at Memorial Stadium was used by about 17,000 persons. At peak periods, the limited facilities necessitated some waiting time at the tee, and the same held true on the course at Rea Park.

There are about 25,000 youngsters enrolled in grade and junior-senior high schools, both public and private, in Vigo County. Just providing recrea-

tion for their needs is an overwhelming problem all by itself. The Park and Recreation Board thoroughly understands the necessity of places where children may re-create themselves, and avoid becoming "soft" from easy living.

All the schools have playground areas and many offer rather impressive facilities. But the steadily increasing enrollment is resulting in growing pains for the school system, already the most expensive tax-supported public unit.

Existing private recreational facilities total 866 acres, the largest being the 360-acre Forest Park. There are 576 acres of existing quasi-private facilities, with the 370-acre Vigo County Conservation Club being the largest.

There are 636 acres of existing city parks. Two of them, Boy Scout Park and Graham Park, really don't amount to much, with only .21 acres and .96 acres, respectively. But they are easily countered by the 160-acre Rea Park and the 155 acres of Deming Park.

TOMORROW: What the public wants—and needs.

# Demand for Outdoor Parks Vigo Co. Recreation Will Increase in 25 Years

(Fourth of Series)

By DICK SUTLIFF

Tribune Staff Writer

The Vigo County Park and Recreation Board, in its master plan, took into account the fact that demand for outdoor recreation facilities will increase greatly in the next 25 years.

There will be a rise in each of the factors which affect the demand for recreation. These include population, income, education, occupation, mobility, age and opportunity to participate.

The National Planning Association says the metropolitan population of this area could reach 215,000 by 1975, and Indiana University studies indicate 222,000 by 1985.

The master plan points out that passive outdoor pursuits are of particular importance in county and municipal planning. Picnicking is enjoyed by a larger percentage of the population than any other single activity — usually as an adjunct to other activities.

Some interesting observations of these resources desirable, demand analysis must go beyond strictly local needs.

Urban residents picnic more than farm dwellers. Group picnics and family reunions are traditional in Indiana. Driving and walking for pleasure account for the highest participation rates of all activities, and these will increase.

Walking is more common for urban residents than for rural folks, while pleasure driving increases with income. Sightseeing is done more by urban dwellers and by those with higher incomes and more education.

Planners say this latter pastime must be given great consideration here because of the ever-increasing college population. Indiana State University, Rose Polytechnic Institute, St. Mary-of-the-Woods College and the emerging Indiana Vocational Technical College are located here.

Spectator sports and cultural events are more prevalent and near cities, mostly because of greater opportunities there.

Tennis and golf are associated with higher education level. Rural residents and those with higher incomes spend more time riding horseback than other. Bicycling is almost exclusive a youth activity, especially outside metropolitan areas.

These variations in demand patterns must be considered in detailed planning to meet county and municipal needs. When recreational resources are successful to attract tourists, and economic conditions make exploit-

education affects demand for recreation. Adults participate more in outdoor activities as their educational level gets higher. It follows then that since more young persons will be seeking advanced education, the demand for recreation facilities will multiply.

Swimming, boating, driving and walking areas are seen as the most in demand for Vigo County.

The Vigo County School Corp. is quite interested in the creation of an arboretum to help further education in the botany field. Construction of a pioneer village is seen as making this vital era in history live in the minds of young students.

Of all factors, age has the sharpest influence. Older persons participate less in active outdoor activities, but they do enjoy walking, sightseeing, fishing and camping. There are about 24,000 Vigo County residents over 55.

While each of these factors exhibit a consistent annual rate of growth, it is difficult to determine an acceptable multiplier. However, conservative estimates are that there will be a tripling of demand for recreation facilities in the next 25 years.

The ratio of the population to available public outdoor recreation areas in this county reveals only 480.69 acres of developed land. Based on the standard of 20 acres of recreation land for every 1,000 persons, analysis shows a current deficiency of 1,720 acres.

At present, the only county recreation area is Fowler Park, a site of 140 acres in Linton Township near Pimento. It is located on a former strip pit area, about 10 miles south of the city, and includes 20 acres of water suitable for fishing, boating and hiking. The county also has a 20-acre tract with about three acres of water north of Seelyville. Five school sites have 135 acres of land.

Terre Haute has six parks of more than 10 acres each for a combined total of 576 acres, including an 18-hole golf course at Rea Park and a nine-hole

course at Memorial Stadium. Other parks have field sports facilities, tennis courts, picnic areas and places for horseback riding, sledding, hiking, field sports, outdoor concerts, fishing and ice skating.

Reservation of open space must be assured. Therefore, serious consideration should be given to the principle of purchasing development rights in lands.

Under this system, the owner sells development rights to the property, and agrees to maintain the land thereafter as open space. In this way, lands may be reserved for outright purchase to fulfill future park and recreation needs.

Open space can also be reserved by tax abatement. Reduction of taxes is contingent on retention of the land in question as open space for a specific period.

The subdivision control ordinance is another means in which adequate public park sites may be reserved for future needs. Subdivision regulations can require developers to reserve a certain per cent of land for recreation purposes, or pay a fee to the local park fund in lieu of land.

Flood plan zoning is another desirable tool that will enable a community to preserve the environmental corridors along rivers and streams. Restricting development in areas subject to flooding will reduce flood damage costs, and will help preserve attractive reaches of streams and rivers.

But, probably the most successful device for open space reservation is exclusive agricultural zoning. This can prevent encroachment of uses not related to agriculture, uses which could, by their very nature, be injurious to the economic well being of the agricultural community.

Many other legal devices can be used to reserve lands for recreation. These include leases, license rights, salebacks and leasebacks.

**TOMORROW:** Recommendations for site selection and development.

SEE ABY  
ON PAGE 24

The ceremony was conducted at St. Jude's Catholic Church, Indianapolis, by the Rev. William Morey, former pastor of St. Jude's. Frances J. McGovern of Terre Haute are grandparents of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Davis and Mr. and Mrs. J. McGovert's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Davis, Sr. and Mr. and Mrs. George Ave, attended the wedding and reception, which was held at the home of the bride's parents.

Jan. 13. Park, Indianapolis, Saturday.

# Vigo County Is Planning 4 Large and 4 Small Parks

(Fifth of a Series)

By DICK SUTLIFF

Tribune Staff Writer

The master plan of the Vigo County Park and Recreation Department describes the three-fold purpose of public parks.

They should be designed to provide areas for both active and passive recreation, to preserve areas of scenic beauty or historic interest and to make land in stream valleys or swamp areas useful and attractive to prevent it from becoming a general nuisance.

The plan sees the need for a city neighborhood park of between five and 20 acres within a half-mile walking distance of each home. Developing the neighborhood park in conjunction with an elementary school to form a neighborhood center is advised.

The remainder of the park acreage should be in large recreation spots found in the outlying portions of the community. They are designed primarily to serve the immediate needs of the urban population.

The program to be offered is

the factor that determines the kinds of properties and their development, the numbers and qualifications of personnel and, thus, the amount of financial support required for the park and recreation system.

A recreation program is the sum total of recreation services provided by public and private agencies in and for the community. The municipal or county recreation program can be distinguished from the community program by the fact that it includes only services offered under municipal or other public auspices.

#### Outside of City

Because of the intensity of residential and other development within the city limits, it will be necessary to obtain some of the needed new land for parks and play areas beyond the city limits.

Based upon accepted standards of park area ratio to population, the master plan says there is a need for four major parks. One each would be located in the northwest, northeast, southwest and southeast sections of the county.

Each should be from 400 to 600 acres and should include

facilities for active sports such as swimming, hiking, horsebackriding, softball, baseball and various types of field events.

The master plan projects these four parks to be completed in 10 years, with 15 years required for completion of four parks of 200 to 250 acres each.

The proposed locations for the four large parks are as follows:

A. Just southeast of Shipardsville.

B. Just north of Seelyville.

C. Just southwest of Hutton.

D. Just southeast of Riley. The four smaller parks' proposed locations are:

1. The currently being developed Fowler Park just north of Pimento.

2. Across the Wabash River from the U.S. Penitentiary.

3. Just north of West Terre Haute.

4. Just southeast of Fenianet.

The type of development of the smaller parks, excluding Fowler, will depend upon the location. If possible, sites will be located close to residential areas in order to serve the people on a community or neighborhood level. Fowler Park is not included here because the site is already selected and work under way to transform the area into a recreation spot.

#### Priority Factors

Priority for completion of the parks should depend upon present population and anticipated growth in the area. It is the intent of the Park and Recreation Department that a resident of the county should not have to drive for more than 30 minutes to reach a park.

Fowler Park is the first of the smaller-sized recreation areas. The land for it was deeded to the Park and Recreation Board by the Board of County Commissioners, which obtained the property from the Peabody Coal Co.

The acquisition of parcels of land surrounding the present site is considered desirable. The natural terrain of this park provides facilities for swimming, fishing, boating, camping, nature trails and rock-hunting.

The Otter Creek watershed in the northeast section of the county may provide a desirable park site in the future. Preliminary studies show a potential watershed structure could be built for the multiple purposes of flood prevention, recreation and possibly water sup-

ply. This is the proposed area north of Seelyville.

#### Early Planning Stages

This project is in the early planning stages, and is part of the overall Otter Creek Watershed Project, which covers 80,000 acres in Vigo, Clay and Parke counties. Economic feasibility surveys are to be completed during this fiscal year.

If this project develops, cost sharing by the federal government could pay for half the total costs, with state and local funds used for the rest.

The park-school concept has received little publicity to date, the master plan points out. Under this system, the school corporation purchases land for the erection of school buildings, and the Park and Recreation Department buys the acreage needed for playgrounds.

In Vigo County, there are a number of places where railroad ties have been taken up, and nature has not yet reclaimed the areas. These would be ideal for hiking, bike ways and for horseback riding.

#### Possible Arboretum Site

The extensive spoil bank areas in the county are seen as a factor to be considered in overall comprehensive park planning. And there is land in private ownership where the timber hasn't been harvested

for more than a century, creating possibilities of an arboretum for the school system.

There are at least 21 historical sites which need to be prominently marked to make the public aware of the heritage of this area. Such a project would require the valued assistance of the Vigo County Historical Society.

A need is seen for a golf course in the northeast part of the county. The Vigo County Fairgrounds would be an excellent location for baseball, softball, football and general play.

The master plan also calls for provisions for camping areas to supplement the limited facilities offered in the over-taxed state park and recreation areas.

The Park and Recreation Department also is keeping an eye on developments in cleaning up the Wabash River and freeing it from most of all of its polluting influence. Possible channeling of the river would also provide recreational opportunities.

The board hopes to work out a comprehensive recreation plan in conjunction with the city Board of Park Commissioners. Such an arrangement would eliminate duplication of services, and create a more efficient park and recreation program.

The Master plan says: "This is a workable plan —

one that can be attained — but this is only possible if the citizens of the county are interested and willing to give their support to activate the plan."

TOMORROW: How much will it cost, and who foots the bill?

# Several Ways Can Be Used To Finance County Parks

(Last of a Series)

By DICK SUTLIFF

Tribune Staff Writer

The action program of the Vigo County Park and Recreation Board, in its ambitious plans for eight park areas to become a reality in the next 15 years, indicates a variety of methods which could be used to finance the project.

Richard D. Norris, executive director of the Park and Recreation Department, says there's no way at this time that

## PUBLIC MEETING

The Vigo County Park and Recreation Board and its advisory committee will host a public meeting at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 15 in the Meadows Center hospitality suite.

Richard D. Norris, executive director of the Park and Recreation Department, says the master plan will be explained in detail to those attending the meeting.

cost figures can be estimated because of the many variables which face officials in the proposed park system.

Under Indiana law, the board has the power to bond the county up to two per cent of its assessed valuation, which figure stood close to \$200 million last year. Any project of this scope would require a bond issue to spread the cost over a longer period.

### Conservation Funds

The master plan points out that the board will plan to use the land and water conservation funds where applicable. These funds are available under Public Law 88-578. States may get grants to aid in:

1. The preparation of a comprehensive state-wide outdoor recreation plan and its maintenance.

2. Acquisition of needed public recreation land and water areas.

3. Development of public recreation areas and facilities.

However, federal grants may not exceed half the cost of planning, acquisition or development projects.

Under Title VII of the federal Housing Act of 1961, open space grants up to 50 per cent are available to communities in ur-

ket values; the applicant must be legally capable of acquiring the land; and the necessity for federal assistance for completion of the proposed open space program must be justified.

### Watershed Act

Another possibility, Public Law 566, the Small Watershed Act, provides an opportunity for co-operation with a conservancy district, soil conservation district and the Soil Conservation Service in making multiple use of a reservoir site for recreation purposes.

The federal government shares 50 per cent. or the increased cost of construction, cost of land and facilities for recreation areas in small watershed projects.

Some state funds, specifically the cigarette tax, are available for acquisition of land for water and outdoor recreation development. The board plans to investigate every possibility of using state funds for the project.

Some Vigo County historic sites have state-wide and national significance, and every effort will be made to interest higher governmental units and private foundations in the preservation of these sites.

Some individuals have indicated an interest in donating property for the development of outdoor recreation facilities.

Operating revenue for the Park and Recreation Department would come from user fees to certain recreation facilities, plus additional tax funds to cov-

The county will be asked to supply, through taxes, operating funds for recreational employees, administration, development of facilities and operating deficits.

# Recreational Opportunities in Vigo Co. Recreation

## County Listed

By JACK A. HUGHES

Tribune Staff Writer

While the Vigo County Park and Recreation Department prepared its Master Plan for the development of land and water recreation facilities, representatives of county, state and federal offices undertook a study of Vigo County's recreation potential.

The result of that study, "An Appraisal of Potentials for Outdoor Recreation Developments in Vigo County, Indiana," is a 62-page booklet which has been included in the bound publication of the county park department's Master Plan.

The recreation appraisal taking note of possibilities for private development of some natural resources, serves as a corollary to the government oriented Master Plan outlining county - sponsored developments.

The appraisal was prepared by Bill Beach, area extension agent for community development of the Indiana Cooperative Extension Service; Guy Harris, area extension administrator supervising eight counties; Richard Norris, superintendent of the Vigo County Park and Recreation Department, and Robert Eddleman, work unit conservationist, Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

### Activities Rated

Selecting 12 kinds of outdoor recreation for examination, the study rated each of 21 activities according to their estimated potential.

Most categories, including picnic and field sport areas, fishing and hunting locations, scenic and historic areas and vacation facilities were rated at medium to high-medium potential.

Two types of recreation possibilities were rated at high potential.

While opportunities for development of new standard and par-3 golf courses were considered of high-medium value, the allied activities of driving ranges and miniature golf were

rated at high potential. The summary of appraisal findings states, "Good terrain for development of standard courses and a potentially large golfing public in Terre Haute with easy access to any course enhances the potential for this recreation activity. The same holds true for driving ranges and miniature golf, in addition to the fact that few such enterprises are available at present."

Lack of existing development was a factor in the rating of the other high potential activity implied under the classification "shooting preserves."

Lack of existing development was a factor in the rating of the other high potential activity implied under the classification "shooting preserves."

The summary reports, "High potential partly because no such preserves exist in the immediate area, but also because of an excellent, long hunting climate; rolling topography with mixture of crops, grass, fence rows, ponds and woods, and a large potential hunting public in easy proximity."

### Vacation Facilities

Other potentials rated in the publication deal with vacation cabins and cottages; homesites; vacation sites; game, woodland game and waterfowl; natural, scenic and historic areas; riding stables; vacation farms and ranches and water sports areas.

All received medium to high-medium potential ratings with the exception of somewhat lower ratings given to natural areas and, as might be expected, vacation ranches. Lack of size in the latter category was the principal deterrent. "Potential for vacation farms is enhanced, however, by the potential for farm pond and impoundment site development and by good proximity to large numbers of urban vacationers," the summary states.

Scenic and natural areas noted in Vigo County include the Wabash River Bluff, Coal Creek Valley, Green Valley State Fish and Game Area in

northwest Sugar Creek Township, Otter Creek Valley, Honey Creek Valley, West Prairie Creek, Turman Creek Valley and others including the old Blue Hole river slough in Prairie Creek Township.

Historic sites include the Eugene V. Debbs Home at 451 N. 8th St., recently made a national historic site; the Courthouse with its tower and the Francis Vigo bell; the Markle and Chauncey Rose home-places; the Wabash and Erie Canal; Fort William Henry Harrison; St. Mary - of - the - Wools; Irishman's Bridge and others.

Copies of the recreation appraisal booklet are available for study in Harris' Federal Building office while the Vigo Park and Recreation Master Plan, including the appraisal section, is in the department office on the fourth floor of the County Courthouse.

T. H. Parks  
Improvement  
T. H. Tribune-STAR 4/7/68  
Of City Parks  
Is Under Way

By PAT BARNES

Tribune Staff Writer

An improvement program is underway in the Terre Haute Park Department including the opening of three municipal swimming pools by the middle of May.

Announcement of the improvement program was made by Mayor Leland Larrison and Howard "Jerry" Harbaugh, park superintendent.

Mayor Larrison said he plans to have the three swimming pools, located at Deming, Sheridan and Voorhees parks, opened by May 15.

"If weather permits the pools will open two weeks earlier this year," the Mayor said. In addition to the pools opening earlier in the season the Mayor said the hours for swimming will be

extended this year. "We plan, at least for now, to open the pools at 10 a.m. each morning and allow swimming to continue until 8 p.m.," the city's chief executive said.

Park superintendent Harbaugh said a new concrete-surfaced tennis court is planned for Collett Park. He also indicated that one dirt tennis court at Rea Park will be cemented and hopes for the remaining

one to be completed by the end of the summer.

Harbaugh also said the greens at Rea Park have been re-worked to provide improved playing conditions for the city's thousands of golfers.

The Mayor and Harbaugh said that more than 20 cooking ovens at the city parks have been remodeled and are now in operation.

During the weekend a number of Boy Scouts were busy at Voorhees Park planting trees donated to the city by the Wabash Valley Boy Scout Council. All told more than 1,500 trees will be planted in the city's parks.

Recently the city approved a contract for the construction of a new building at Deming Park to be used for equipment storage and a work shop. In addition to the new building Mayor Larrison said upon its completion the city plans to restore the old fort at the park. In other improvements the Mayor reported the shelter at Collett Park has been completely remodeled and is open for the public. A number of vending machines have been installed at the shelter, Larrison said.

Both Larrison and Harbaugh said they hoped to have all of the city parks in "tip top shape" within the next couple of weeks. "We anticipate several thousand persons visiting our city parks this year," Larrison said, "and the park department has been doing everything in its power to complete the improvements in time for summer weather."

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